

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 18 with the following:

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1A and 1B, apparatus **10** includes a first element defining or forming anode compartment **14** and a second element defining or forming cathode compartment **15**, each of which can be individually inserted and axially spaced apart within housing means **1** along a longitudinal axis **A-A**. Anode and cathode compartments **14, 15** are each preferably configured to hold at least one electrolyte. In addition, either anode or cathode compartments **14, 15** of apparatus **10** can be further configured to hold at least a portion of the sample to be altered. Each of anode and cathode compartments **14, 15** have means for adding or removing a solution to or from its respective compartment. As shown, anode and cathode compartments **14, 15** can be preferably configured so as to have an opening from the top thereby making anode and cathode compartment **14, 15** accessible for top loading or removal of a solution. Alternatively, anode and cathode compartments can be configured with other structures or alternatively located openings to provide access for adding or removing a solution from the compartments. Preferably respectively disposed within anode and cathode compartments **14, 15** are electrodes (not shown) acting as anode **[[30]]** (not shown) and cathode **[[35]]** (not shown). Anode and cathode **[[30, 35]]** are axially spaced apart substantially along longitudinal axis **A-A** by a distance **d** and can be further configured so as to provide an electric field having a direction **E** substantially parallel to longitudinal axis **A-A**. The electric field is applied for the purpose of performing the electrophoresis. Anode **[[30]]** and cathode **[[35]]** can be connected to a power source (not shown), more preferably, anode **[[30]]** and cathode **[[35]]** can be connected to a variable voltage source having a preferred voltage ranging from about 10 V to about 5000 V, with a current preferably ranging from about 0.01 mA to about 1000 mA. It is to be understood that either compartment **14** or **15** can act as the anode compartment and cathode compartment by connecting the appropriate outlet of the power source to the electrode in the respective compartment functioning as anode **[[30]]** and cathode **[[35]]**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 4, with the following:

In order to facilitate the sealing action of sealing means **12**, housing means **1** can include axially opposed compression members **8, 9**, preferably formed from an electrically insulating, non-brittle, sufficiently rigid material, such as PVC material, that can be axially displaced along longitudinal axis **A-A** to compress anode and cathode compartments **14, 15**, sealing means **12**, ion-permeable barriers **18**, and where present, separation compartments **40**. In addition, axial displacement of opposed compression members **8, 9** facilitates removal and/or replacement of the individual anode, cathode and separation compartments **14, 15, 40**, sealing means **12** and ion-

permeable barriers **18** from housing means **1**. Compression members **8, 9** can directly act on axially opposed end plates **16, 11** which are each preferably engaged with sealing means **12** to transmit the compressive force to the assembled anode and cathode compartments **14, 15**, separation compartments **40**, sealing means **12** and ion-permeable barriers **18**. Compression members **8, 9** can include a threaded rod **6** and nut assembly **5** so as to axially displace compression members **8, 9** along longitudinal axis **A-A**, however it is to be understood that other means of linear displacement may be provided.